

(1)

Strange and Bloody

NEWS

of a most Horrible

MURDER

Committed on the 26th of this Instant October at

FINCHLY

Near

Browns Well

IN

MIDDLESEX:



IN the Parish of *Finchly*, in the County of *Middlesex*, about six Miles from *London*, lived *Thomas Cover*, a young man, and a Farmer, who falling in love with *Elizabeth Draper*, a Farmers Daughter of the same Parish, made his Court to her ; who, though she was at first very coy, and slighted his affections (having choice of Suiters, whom her Beauty, and virtuous Education had attracted) yet at last, she resolved that *Thomas Cover* should be that happy man, who should carry the prize from all the rest of the Numerous Pretenders. Their Relations, who were mutually consulted, considering the equality of their Fortunes, and the honest Reputation they both lived in; thought it might prove a very agreeable Match, and as they had all along, given them Encouragement in their Amours, so now at last they consented to the finishing those Espousals which they hoped would make them both happy in each others Embraces.

The Cerimonious part of their Courtship being over, *Thomas Cover*, asked her when they should be married, she answer-

ed she could not tell, but her Mother sitting by, told her it was her part to appoint the day, that now every thing was ready (for she had two New Gowns, a black one and a colour d, brought home by the Taylor two days before, and he, two Suits of Cloaths) the sooner it was compleated the better, for they had time little enough, to settle themselves in their New House, before *Winter* would come on.

Elizabeth her Daughter seemed to take little notice of her discourse: when her Sweet-Heart *Thomas* asked her when it should be, *I can't tell*, said she, *I am in no haste, and to tell you the Truth, I think 'tis better as it is.* What, says *Thomas*, is your mind alter'd so suddenly? won't you have me then, after all this? No indeed, says she, *I am resolved to the contrary.*

Upon this *Thomas Cover* appeared very Melancholy, and went up to Bed (his Lodging being in the same House) and after he had walked an hour or two in his Chamber, pondering upon the matter, he went down Stairs and fetched up a Bason of Water and a great Butchers Knife they used to Kill Hogs with; the Water as it is supposed, was to wash his hands after he had imbrued them in the Blood of his unkind & unconstant Mistress, whose death he was now resolved upon. About twelve on *Munday* Night, the sixth of this Instant *October*, all the Family being in Bed and a sleep, he put off his Shooes, and with his Knife in his hand stole into her Chamber, which was hard by, and finding her fast a sleep, put out the Candle which was there burning upon the occasion of a young Childs being sick, that lay with her, and afterwards going to the Bed side, feeling for her throat endeavoured to cut it; but having a Calico Hood on, which she usually lay in, ty'd with a Knot under her Chin, as he intended the Fatal Stroke, the Knot sav'd it from her Flesh, though on one side there was a great gash, but which is hoped it will not be Mortal. At this she awaked, and cryed out, when *Thomas Cover* went down Stairs and out of the House into an adjacent Close, and immediately with the same Knife cut his own throat, from Ear to Ear, of which he presently dyed, and was the next Morning found there, and the Knife by him. *Mr. Harris* the Coroner, who lives at *Clarkenwell* being acquainted with it, Summond a Jury of the Neighbours who lived at *Finchly*, who upon the plainness of the Circumstances, brought him guilty of his own Murder.